THE VVonder of this Age:

OR,

God's Miraculous Revenge against MURDER.

Being a RELATION of an undoubted Truth out of the WEST.

How the Skull of a Person (Murdered about Thirty years agoe, in an Inn) was found with a Linnen Cap thereon, still whole, with the two Letters wherewith it was marked, plain to be seen, though it had lain so many yeare in the Earth.

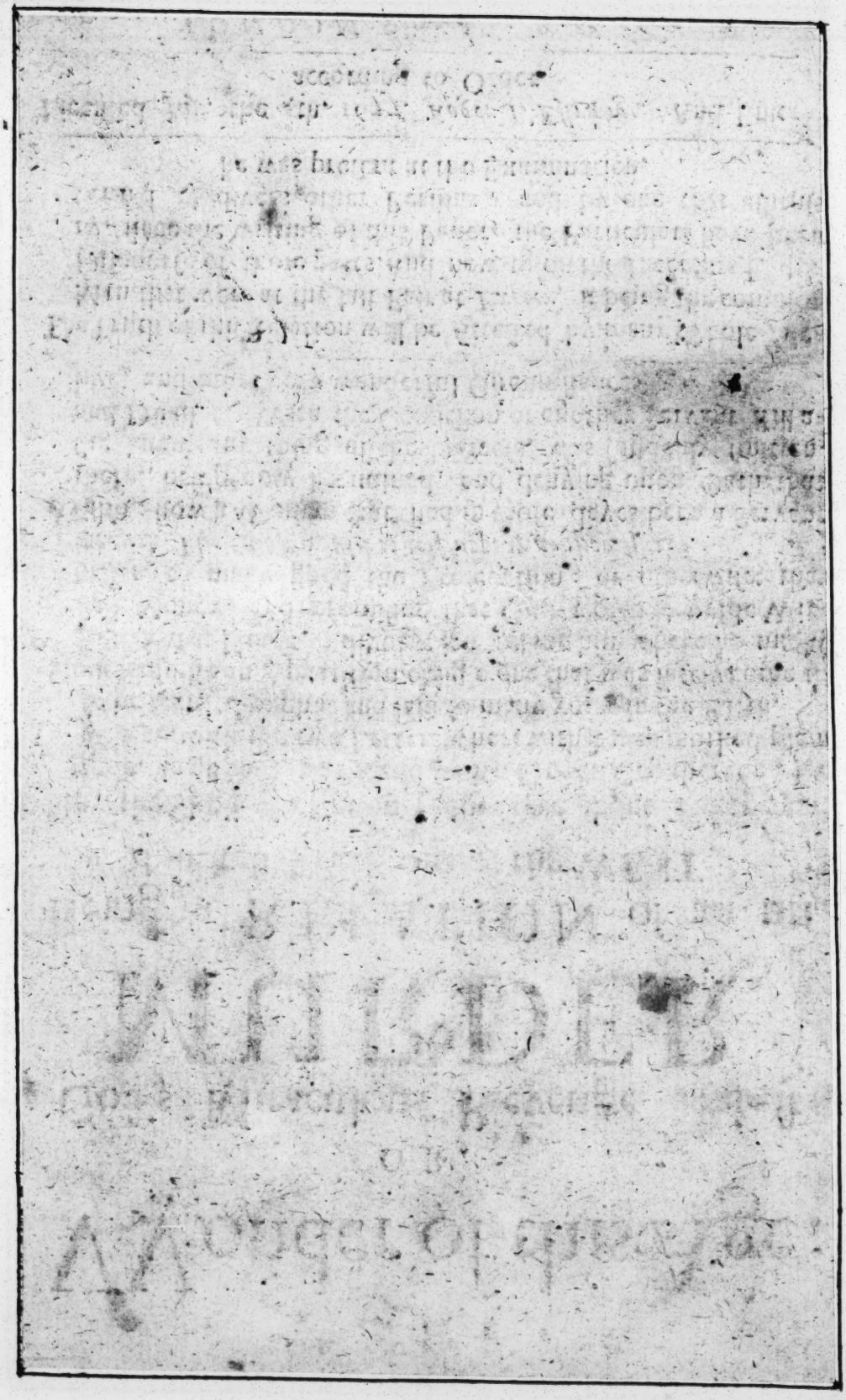
How likewise an Apparition oblig'd one that was lately come to live in that House, to divulge it; telling him where he might find Money, and promising that God would provide Witnesses, to make good the Prosecution; or otherwise, that it, *viz. The Ghost would it self appear at the Assizes.*

As also, how a Woman that had in those dayes been a Servant there, being now Examined, and denying upon Oath, that she knew any thing of the business, was suddenly smitten, and Dyed. With the Confession of another Servant still alive, and other very wonderful Circumstances.

The Truth of this Relation will be Attested by many Whole-sale-Men that were at the last Fair at *Exeter*, it being the common Discourse of those parts. And now, upon the Licensers Enquiry, since the writing of this Paper, the Particulars have been verifi'd by divers other Persons, and by one that affirms he was present at the Examination.

Licensed *Jan.* the 4th. 1677. *Roger L'Estrange.* And Enter'd according to Order.

LONDON, Printed for *B. H.* 1677.



Wonderful NEWS from the *WEST*, &c.

THE Circumſtances of the Relation we are here to give the World, are in themſelves ſo ſtrange, that 'tis not to be expected, but many will ſuſpect the Truth thereof, and decry it as a Fiction: But having received ſufficient Atteſtation of its Verity as well by Letters to divers worthy Perſons in London; *as by the Information of ſeveral credible People, lately come from the Parts wherein the Thing was tranſacted. We ſhall fairly and Candidly ſet forth the Truth of the matter, as far as legally it may be done, without ſcandalizing any particular Perſon, or creating unwarrantable Suſpitions, beyond Evidence or Juſtice.*

THIS now near ſeaven Years ago, ſince at an Inn in a very eminent City in the the *Weſt* of *England*, by Digging on ſome occaſion, there was found the Skull of a Man, and ſome of his Bones; but all the Fleſh mouldered away to Duſt; and yet, on the Fore-part of his Skull, there was ſtill part of a

Linnen Cap, mark'd with two Letters, plain to be seen: This then occasioned much Discourse, especially because the two Letters answered to the Name of a Person that had heretofore kept that House; and many looked upon it as an extraordinary Providence, that the Cap (just in that part) should be so strangely preserved; well hoping, the same might be a means to discover those that had been Guilty of his Blood: But whether the measure of their Iniquities were not then full, or for what other reason, Divine Vengeance suspended their Punishment, I cannot say: It proceeded no further at that time, than certain muttering Surmizes; every one guessing, as his Fancy led him.

However, a Neighbour took the Skull, and has it to this Day; the piece of Cap continuing fresh, and the Letters very Conspicuous.

But a Stranger being lately come to live in the before-mentioned House, the same has been much disturbed or Haunted (as 'tis commonly called); strange Noises heard; Things met upon the Stairs, but not to be seen, &c. Insomuch, that the People were much affrighted and afflicted; till about five or six Weeks ago, the Man of the House being in Bed, and broad Awake, a Ghost or Apparition, in the Form of a Man, and by his Habit, (being Embroidred Cloaths) resembling a Gentleman, appeared to him, Drawing back the Curtains, and looking full upon him, said these, or the like, Words:

Thirty Years ago was I barbarously Murthered in this house for my Money: Part of my Body hath been found,

but

but my Blood is not Revenged; I Charge you to acquaint the Magistrates that the thing may be Examined: And having said thus, disappeared.

The Man was much perplexed: But not knowing what to do in it, and loath to bring himself into trouble, kept it to himself two or three days; so that the Spirit came again, and in an angry Voyce, demanded why he had not performed his request? the Man answered, *That he was poor; and to make out and prosecute the business Effectually, would be Chargeable:* The Spirit replyed, *that he need not want Money; for in the Kitchin there was* Fourscore *Pounds hidden.* Then the Man said, *If he took any persons on suspition, he had not witnesses to prove it against them; and if he should Charge them, and they were Cleared, they might sue him.*

To which the Ghost Answer'd, *God will raise up Witnesses: and rather than fail, I will appear, and make the Murderers Confess it.*

The next day the Man digg'd in a Kitchin he had; but not finding the Money mentioned, resolved still to Conceal the thing, as thinking it some *Evill lying Spirit*: but was within few dayes taken Extreamly Ill, even near unto Death: in which Condition he sent for a Minister; and amongst other things, Imparted this to him: which he had no sooner done, but he began sensibly to amend: and within a day or two, went abroad and made oath of what had passed between the *Spirit* and *Himself* in manner aforesaid, before a Magistrate.

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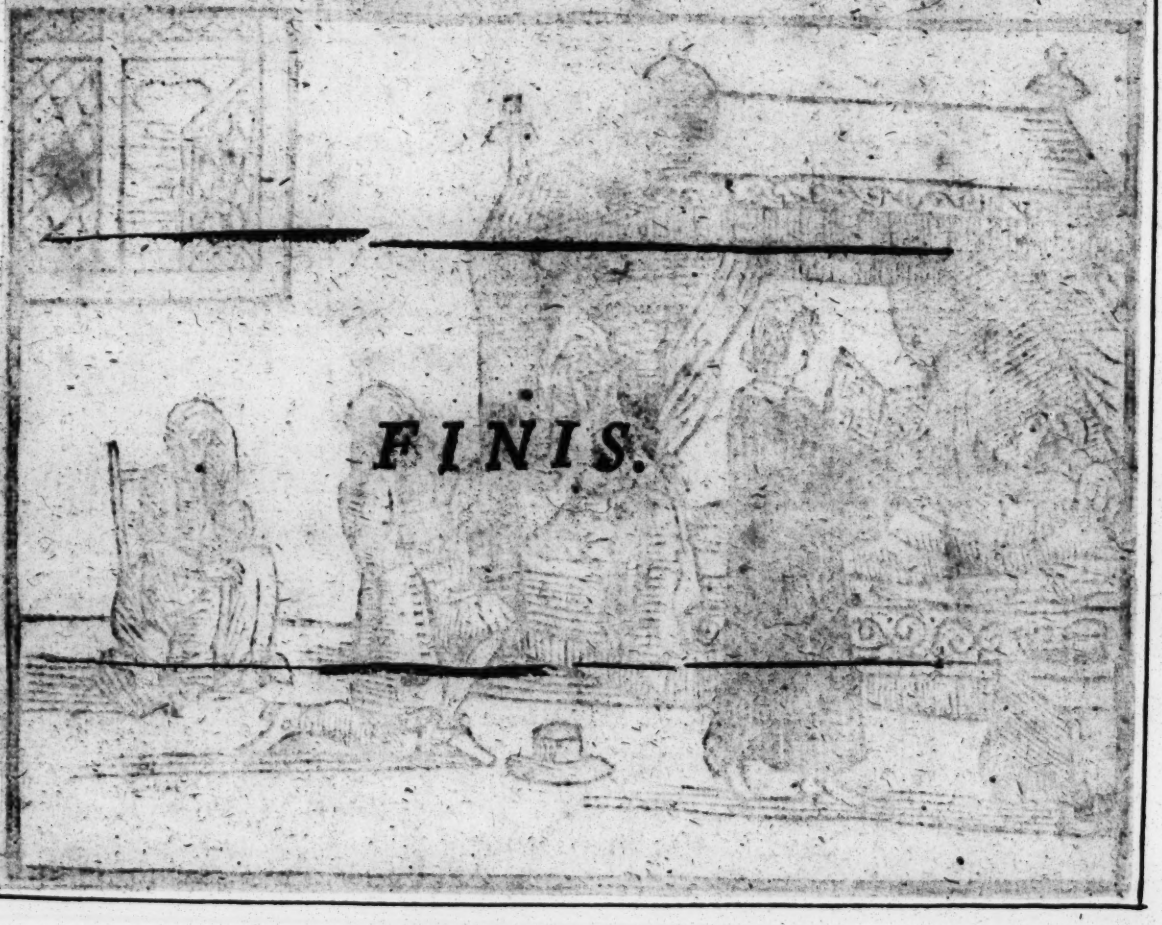
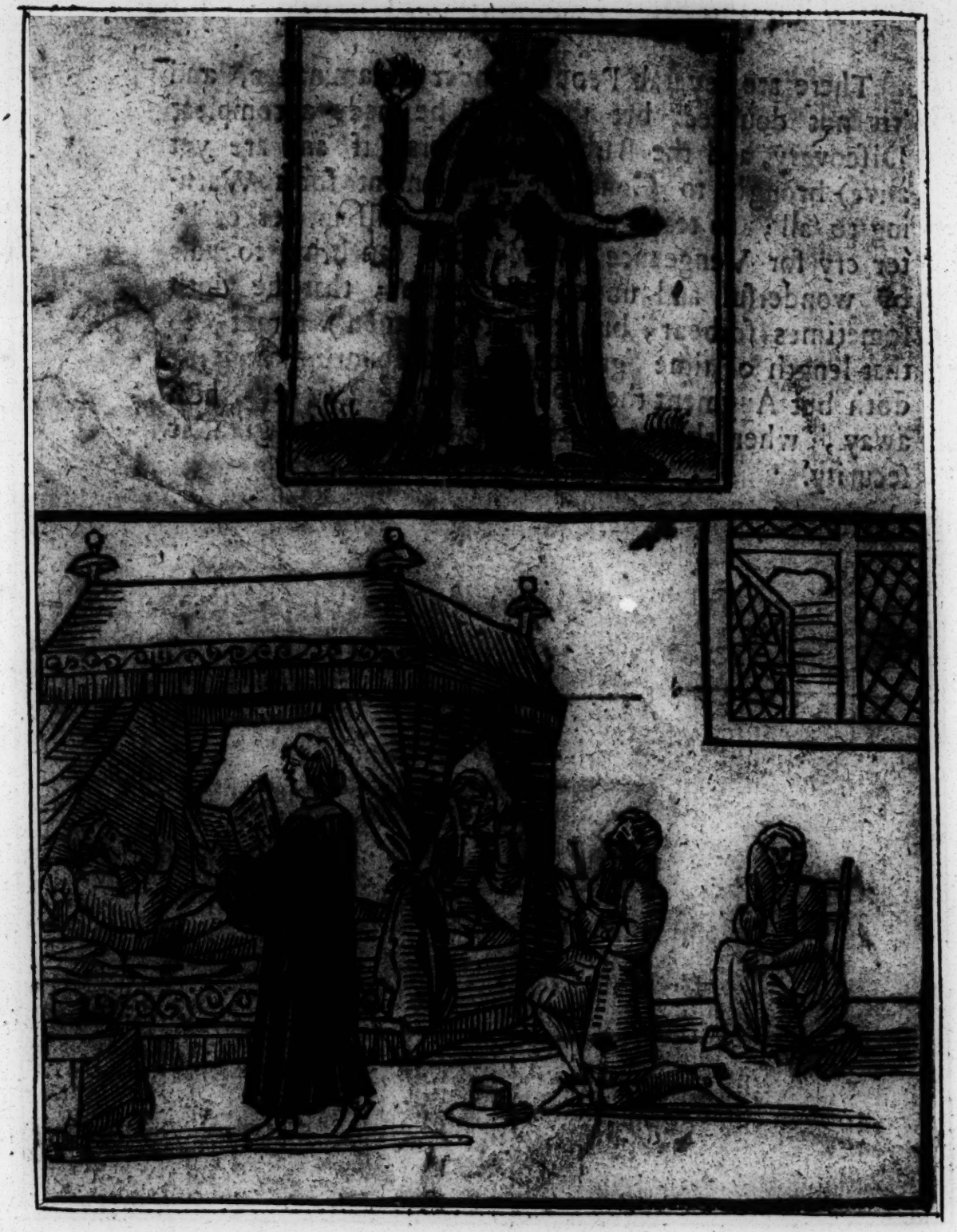
The Person that kept the House so long agoe, is himself dead, divers years since: But some others belonging to it, were still alive; in particular, two Women, at that time were Servants there; who being brought before a Justice, one of them, who 'tis said a day or two before, on the first rumour, had acknowledged to a Neighbour of hers, that she understood something of it; yet now fearing danger, absolutely denyed it, and took her Oath that she knew nothing of the business; for which she was instantly reproved by the Woman she had so Confest it to before, and thereupon was strangely smitten with Sickness, and Dyed.

The other Deposed, that about Thirty years ago, she well remembers, a Gentleman lately Arrived from beyond the Seas, came to the Inn, and by his Habit, and the weight of his Cloak-bag, they did suppose him to have good store of Money; and she waiting on him in his Chamber, expected a good Reward: But being sent forth the next Morning more early than ordinarily, to Milking; when she came back, ask'd the Hostler if the Gentleman were gone, who told her, no; he was walkt into the Town, for there was his Horse; and that she did find his Cloak upon the Bed, but never heard of the Gentleman afterwards, nor knows what became of the Horse, but thinks he was Cryed and Sold; and that she had oft been troubled (since) in her mind, to think what should become of him.

By the last Letter 'tis Reported, that since the first digging, there being two Kitchins belonging to the House, order was given to digg in the Old-Kitchin, and that there was found the Money mentioned by the Apparition.

There

There are ſeveral People under Examination, and 'tis not doubted, but there will be made a compleat Diſcovery, and the Barbarous Actors (if any are yet alive) brought to Condigne Puniſhment for a Warning to all; to teach us, that Blood will ſooner or later cry for Vengeance, which God can bring to paſs by wonderful and unexpected means; that he doth ſometimes forbear, but cannot (as men) forget; ſo that length of time granted to Unrepenting Sinners, doth but Augment their Puniſhment, and ſweeps them away, when they promiſe to themſelves the greateſt ſecurity.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